

COUNTY COUNCIL
OF
HARFORD COUNTY, MARYLAND

BILL NO. 75-2 (as amended)

Introduced by Councilman Freeman at the request of the County Executive.

Legislative Day No. 75-1 Date: January 7, 1975

AN EMERGENCY ACT to repeal and re-enact with amendments Section 445(b)(1) of the Code of Public Local Laws of Harford County, (1965 Edition, as amended), title "Department of Public Works - Division of Water and Sewers", subtitle "Bond Retirement Assessments"; to provide that the properties of volunteer fire companies be exempt from all front foot assessments; and to provide that the provisions of this Act shall apply retro-actively to ~~January 1, 1974~~ JULY 1, 1973.

By the Council, January 7, 1975

Introduced, read first time, ordered posted and public hearing scheduled on: February 4, 1975

at: 6:30 P.M.

By Order: Angela Markowski, Secretary

PUBLIC HEARING

Having been posted and Notice of time and place of hearing and Title of Bill having been published according to the Charter, a public hearing was held on February 4, 1975 and concluded on February 4, 1975.

Angela Markowski, Secretary

LIBER 1 PAGE 638

1 Section 1. *Be It Enacted By The County Council Of Harford*
2 *County, Maryland*, that Section 445(b)(1) of the Code of Public
3 Local Laws of Harford County, (1965 Edition, as amended), title
4 "Department of Public Works - Division of Water and Sewers"
5 subtitle "Bond Retirement Assessments", be, and it is hereby
6 repealed and re-enacted, with amendments, to read as follows:
7 Section 445. Bond Retirement Assessments.

8 (b) Method of Assessment. The County Executive may
9 recommend to the County Council the assessment on either a
10 front foot basis or an equal benefit basis:

11 (1) Front foot basis. The Director for the
12 purpose of assessing benefits on a front foot basis shall
13 divide all properties binding upon a street, road, lane, alley,
14 or right-of-way, in which a water pipe or sanitary sewer is to
15 be laid, into four (4) classes, namely: agricultural, small
16 acreage, industrial or business, and residential, and the
17 Director may subdivide each of these classes in such manner as
18 he deems to be in the public interest. Whenever any water
19 supply or sewerage project in the sanitary district has been
20 completed and declared ready for service, the County Executive
21 shall recommend to the County Council that they fix the
22 assessment annually or semi-annually upon all property in the
23 district abutting upon the water main or sewer, in accordance
24 with the classification or subdivision thereof. The Director
25 may recommend changes in the classification of properties from
26 time to time as the properties change in the uses to which they
27 are put. The benefit assessment shall be levied for water supply,
28 sewerage and drainage construction, and shall be based for each
29 class of property upon the number of front feet abutting upon
30 the street, lane, road, alley, or right-of-way in which the
31 water pipe or sewer is placed; provided that no residential
32 property may be assessed on more than one side unless it abuts

LBER 1 MCE 639

1 upon two (2) parallel streets, that corner lots may be averaged
2 and assessed upon such frontage in a reasonable and fair manner,
3 and that all lots in the residential and industrial or business
4 classification shall be assessed even though a water main or
5 sewer may not extend along the full length of any boundary;
6 and provided further, that no land classified as agricultural
7 shall be assessed a front foot benefit when it has constructed
8 through it or in front of it a sewer or water main until such
9 time as the water or sewer connection is made, and when so
10 made and for every connection such land is liable to a front foot
11 assessment for such reasonable frontage not exceeding three
12 hundred (300) feet, and shall be immediately assessed at the
13 rate of assessment determined for agricultural land. Any land
14 owned by a religious body upon which there is erected a church
15 or a parsonage and which is used exclusively for customary
16 religious purposes shall be exempted from front foot benefit
17 assessment for the first one hundred fifty (150) feet of the
18 total frontage of said property. The properties of volunteer
19 fire companies shall be exempted from all front foot benefit
20 assessments.

21 Front foot benefit assessments for water supply and
22 sewerage and drainage construction shall be as nearly uniform
23 as is practicable for each class or subclass of property
24 throughout each system for any one (1) year, and no benefit
25 charge, once levied, may be increased; provided, however, that
26 whenever the County acquires an existing system other than a
27 municipal system, the construction of which has been added in
28 whole or in part to the purchase price of land or lots abutting
29 upon the system and which contribution the Director has
30 determined to be a factor in the cost to the County of such
31 system, the County Council may levy, after adoption by Ordinance,
32 such lesser assessment as may take into account this factor.

LURE 1 PAGE 640

1 The amount of the assessment per front foot for each
2 class of property for water, sewer and drainage systems may be
3 reduced from time to time by the County, if cost and conditions
4 are deemed to justify the reduction but may be subsequently
5 increased to the amount of original assessment in the event
6 revenues prove to be insufficient, after adoption by Ordinance
7 by the County Council. The benefit assessments shall be paid
8 annually by all properties located as above specified for
9 a period of years co-extensive with the period of maturity of the
10 bonds out of the proceeds of which such construction was done.
11 Section 2. *And Be It Further Enacted*, that the provisions of
12 this Act shall be retroactive to July 1, 1973.
13 Section 3. *And Be It Further Enacted*, that this Act is
14 declared to be an Emergency Act because an emergency affecting
15 the fair and equitable assessment of certain property exists,
16 and that it is necessary to establish a proper assessment
17 practice before taxes on the properties in question are due
18 for the current year, and shall take effect on the date it
19 becomes law.
20 EFFECTIVE: March 12, 1975

21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32

LIBER 1 PAGE 641
BY THE COUNCIL

Read the third time.

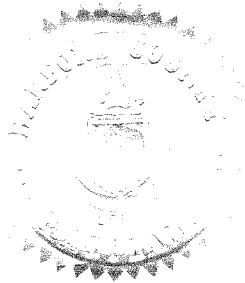
Passed March 11, 1975 (LSD 75-8) (with amendments)

~~Failed on XXXXXX~~

By order

Angela Markowski, Secretary

Sealed with the County Seal and presented to the County Executive
for his approval this 12th day of March, 1975
at 2:30 o'clock P.M.



Angela Markowski, Secretary

BY THE EXECUTIVE

APPROVED:

Charles B. Baker Jr.
County Executive
Date 3.12.75

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, having been approved by the Executive and
returned to the Council, becomes law on March 12, 1975.

Angela Markowski
Angela Markowski, Secretary of the Council